

REVIEW.

CATALOGUE OF THE LEPIDOPTERA PHALÆNÆ IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.

VOLUME IX.

BY

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The ninth volume of Sir George Hampson's Catalogue of the Moths of the World concludes the survey of the species belonging to the Noctuid Subfamily Acronyctinæ and deals with 725 species belonging to 185 genera, these numbers including a few additions to Volumes VII and VIII which dealt with the earlier groups of this Subfamily.

It need hardly be said that a complete survey, such as this is, of the entire literature and inter-relations of a whole group of species is of inestimable benefit to every lepidopterist who has to deal with any species contained in the group, whatever his particular line of study, although only those who have groped their way through the tangled jungle of synonymy can have any idea of the vast amount of labour entailed in the preparation of a work of this nature.

When it is stated that the key to the Acronyctine genera alone occupies 17 pages, some idea can be formed of the magnitude of the scale on which this catalogue is being produced. It may be noted, *en passant*, that this key to the genera is founded almost wholly on structural differences of tarsal and tibial spines, development of proboscis, presence of an areole, etc., and scarcely at all on neuronal characters, which last are scarcely so reliable since they are sometimes subject to variation; for example, on comparison of a specimen of *Mudaria cornifrons* with the description and figure on page 226 of this volume, we find that in this particular individual veins 3 and 4 and 6 and 7 of the hindwing are distinctly stalked, although normally they are emitted from the two angles of the cell.

Sir George Hampson has so made himself our first and foremost specialist in the Noctuidæ that criticism of his arrangement and general treatment of the family appears unnecessary. But there is one small point which we may bring forward and the more especially so because it is a matter which affects the whole range of nature to which the binomial system of nomenclature is applicable. We hold that a name, once applied to a genus or species, is inviolable (except of course in the case of an adjectival word used as a specific name, when the termination may be made to agree with the gender of the name of the genus in which the species is placed, or in the case of an obvious misprint for which there is evidence) and should not

be changed from its original spelling. The language of entomological nomenclature is Latin, a language which is used by common consent as a kind of neutral ground whereon entomologists of every race or dialect may meet on equal terms; entomological Latin (in common with the Latin of other branches of science) is often bad, we readily admit, and may often and does often degenerate into the school boy or canine variety—we recollect a recent case in the Transactions of a leading Society where an author wrote a paper on the early stages of certain moths and called their eggs “ovæ” throughout his paper!—but it fulfils its object by providing a vehicle of expression which is mutually understood by all who use it, and it appears unnecessarily pedantic to insist too much on the strict letter of the law and to claim that Latin of the Augustan epoch, and of no other period, is to be accepted. Latin may be technically a “dead” language, but we submit that it is capable of expansion—nay, more, it has expanded—in its vocabulary since the days of Augustus. This being so, it is an unnecessary source of confusion to alter the spelling of well-known names merely because they contain a letter which Horace might not have recognised. In this volume, however, a name such as “*janrowskii*” becomes “*janrowsci*” and “*howardi*” becomes “*houardi*” (this latter a particularly objectionable change), whilst names like “*hilzingeri*” and “*schlumbergeri*” are allowed to persist unchanged; we wonder which Horace would rather have had to pronounce! If *Cephonodes kingi* is to be changed to *C. cingi* why not go further and alter its name to *C. regis*?

Another point to which we can only refer very briefly is the instability of nomenclature caused by the alteration of well-known names under a system by which the Law of Priority is invoked to sanction the resuscitation of some unfamiliar name unearthed from the musty records of the past. We are glad to note that the Zoological Society is taking steps to protect well-recognised names in general use. The student will note in the present volume that the familiar *Nonagria* has become *Sesamia*, the well-known *Nonagria uniformis* being now called *Sesamia uniformis*.

As regards the genera and species with which we are more immediately concerned, the following list gives all those occurring within the limits of the Indian Region.

† Means figured by text-block.

‡ , figured in atlas of coloured plates.

* ,, new genus or species.

† 4312 ..	<i>Lophotypha*</i>	..	<i>albirena</i> , Moore.	..	1724	..	Sikhim; Bengal.
† 4318 ..	<i>Gortyna</i>	..	<i>leucostigma</i> , Hb.	..	1795	..	? Khasis.
4351 ..	<i>Hydræcia</i>	..	<i>basalipunctata</i> , Græs.	..	1594	..	Khasis.
4357 ..	<i>Pyrrhia</i>	..	<i>umbra</i> , Hufn.	..	1598	..	Kashmir; Punjab; Khasis.
† 4359 ..	<i>Callœcia*</i>	..	<i>swinhoei</i> , Butl.	..	2025	..	Bombay.
† 4441 ..	<i>Cylocanis*</i>	..	<i>denticulosa</i> , Wlk.	..	2016	..	Bombay; Madras.
† 4505 ..	<i>Elydna</i>	..	<i>bosca</i> , Swinh.	..	1885	..	Burma.

4506 ..	Elydna	..	plagiata, Wlk.	..	1886	..	Punjab; Bombay; Ceylon; Burma.
† 4512 ..	..	..	reclusa, Wlk.	..	875	..	Bombay; Madras; Ceylon.
† 4513 ..	..	..	erigida, Swinh.	..	938	..	Travancore; Burma.
† 4514 ..	..	..	bipuncta, Snell.	..	1874a	}	Punjab; Sikhim; Khasis.
					1877 (pt.)		
4516 ..	..	..	lineosa, Moore	..	1877 (part)	..	Punjab (Kulu; Dalhousie).
† 4517 ..	..	..	truncipennis*	..		..	Punjab; Sikhim; Khasis; Ceylon.
† 4518 ..	..	..	ochreipuncta, Hmps.	..	1869	..	Sikhim.
4521 ..	..	..	renalis, Moore	..	1878	..	Ceylon.
† 4523 ..	..	..	rectilinea*	..		..	Punjab (Kulu; Sultanpur; Dalhousie).
† 4524 ..	..	..	bisignata, Hmps.	..	2058a	..	Madras.
† 4527 ..	..	..	atripuncta *	..		..	Ceylon.
† 4528 ..	..	..	ochracea, Hmps.	..	2058	..	Burma.
† 4530 ..	..	..	transversa, Wlk.	..	2057	..	Bombay; Ceylon; Burma.
† 4536 ..	Androlymnia*	..	emarginata, Hmps.	..	2098	..	Simla; Nilgiris; Ceylon.
† 4539 ..	Nikara	..	castanea, Mo.	..	1792	..	Sikhim.
† 4540 ..	Apocalymnia*	..	tenebrosa, Hmps.	..	1874b	..	Madras (Cuddapah; Horsley Konda).
4543 ..	Calymnia	..	restituta, Wlk.	..	2055	..	Punjab; Nepal.
† 4549 ..	..	..	flavifimbria,*	..	2056 (part)	..	Kashmir; Punjab (Note C affinis to be deleted from Indian List).
† 4551 ..	..	..	ochreimargo, Hmps.	..	1873	..	Punjab; Sikhim.
† 4575 ..	Basilica*	..	chrysosticta, Hmps.	..	2689a	..	Bombay.
† 4600 ..	Mudaria	..	cornifrons, Mo.	..	1825	..	Bengal.
† 4658 ..	Phragmatiphila*	..	fumea, Hmps.	..	1798a	..	Sikhim (1800').
‡ 4659 ..	..	..	leucaneura*	..		..	Burma.
† 4660 ..	..	..	grisescens*	..		..	Sikhim (1800').
† 4672 ..	Calamistis*	..	microsticta, Hmps.	..	1793	..	Sikhim.
† 4673 ..	..	..	submarginalis, Hmps.	..	1946	..	Nilgiris.
† 4676 ..	Rabila	..	frontalis, Wlk.	..	1591	..	Ceylon.
‡ 4689 ..	Arenostola*	..	procera, Stögr.	..		..	Kashmir.
† 4700 ..	Sphetta	..	apicalis, Wlk.	..	1585	..	Bombay; Ceylon.
† 4737 ..	Acrapex	..	acuminata, Hmps.	..	1954	..	Nilgiris.
4739 ..	..	..	hamulifera, Hmps.	..	1952	..	Ceylon.
† 4742 ..	..	..	brunnea*	..		..	Ceylon (Maskeliya).
‡ 4744 ..	..	..	atriceps*	..		..	Khasis.
† 4745 ..	..	..	leucophlebia, Hmps.	..	1953	..	Nilgiris; Travancore.
† 4746 ..	..	..	prisca, Wlk.	..	1951	..	Travancore; Ceylon.
‡ 4748 ..	..	..	roseotincta*	..		..	Ceylon (Maskeliya).
† 4756 ..	Sesamia	..	pallida, Butl.	..	1950	..	Bombay (Mhow).
† 4759 ..	..	..	inferens, Wlk.	..	1943 (part)	..	Bengal; Assam; Madras; Ceylon; Burma; Andamans.
† 4766 ..	..	..	cretica, Led.	..	1943 (part)	..	Punjab (Dharmasala); Sikhim (1800').
† 4767 ..	..	..	uniformis, Dögn.	..		..	Bengal; Bombay.
† 4773 ..	Xylostola*	..	robusta, Hmps.	..	1945	..	Sikhim; Khasis.
† 4774 ..	..	..	indistincta, Mo.	..	1889	..	Sikhim; Nilgiris; Ceylon.
† 4777 ..	Arcilasisa	..	sobria, Wlk.	..	1939	..	Punjab; Nepal; Sikhim; ? S. India.
† 4782 ..	Clethrorasa*	..	pilcheri, Hmps.	..	1960a	..	Sikhim (5000').
† 4785 ..	Apsarasa	..	radians, Westw.	..	1962	..	Sikhim; Assam.
‡ 4786 ..	..	..	figurata, Mo.	..	1962 (part)	..	Andamans.

† 4794 ..	Chasmina	.. sericea, Hmpsn.	.. 1957	.. Ceylon; Burma.
† 4796 ..	..	.. tibialis, Fb.	.. 1958	.. Punjab (Jubbulpore, Dehra Dun; Sikhim; Nilgiris; Ceylon.
4799 ..	..	.. judicata, Wlk.	.. 1959	.. Punjab (Jubbulpore); Rajputana; Nilgiris; Ceylon.
4800 ..	..	.. rejecta, Fb.	.. 1960	.. Punjab (Jubbulpore); Madras (Nilgiris, Travancore, Travandrum); Ceylon; Burma; Nicobars.
† 4802 ..	..	.. maculata, Hmpsn.	.. 1961	.. Burma
† 4807 ..	Callyna	.. siderea, Gn.	.. 2169	.. Punjab (Almora, Dharmsala, Allahabad); Nepal; Khasis; Bombay (Poona); Ceylon.
4809 ..	..	.. costiplaga, Mo.	.. 2173	.. Bombay; Nilgiris; Ceylon.
4812 ..	..	.. jugaria, Wlk.	.. 2171	.. Punjab (Dehra Dun, Manpuri); Sikhim; Bengal; Ceylon - Andamans.
4813 ..	..	.. semivitta, Mo.	.. 2171 (part)	.. Punjab (Kulu); Sikhim.
† 4814 ..	..	.. mystica, Wlk.	.. 2172	.. Burma.
4816 ..	..	.. monoleuca, Wlk.	.. 2170	.. Sikhim; Assam; Bombay (Kanara Karwar); Nilgiris; Ceylon (Trincomali); Burma; Nicobars.
† 4902 ..	Seudyra	.. venosa, Mo.	.. 1571	.. Punjab (Almora); Sikhim Bengal.
† 4905 ..	..	.. longipennis, Wlk.	.. 1572	.. Sikhim; Silhet.
4906 ..	..	.. catocalina, Wlk.	.. 1573	.. Sikhim.
† 4909 ..	..	.. bala, Mo.	.. 1570	.. Sikhim (7,000-10,000).
† 4911 ..	..	.. trausiens, Wlk.	.. 1569	.. Sikhim; Assam; Burma.
† 4913 ..	..	.. albifascia, Wlk.	.. 1574	.. Sikhim; Bombay (Kanara); Burma.
4914 .. ?	..	.. nepcha, Mo.	.. 1575	.. Sikhim.
† 4917 ..	Protoseudyra*	.. picta, Hmpsn.	.. 1872	.. Sikhim; Khasis.
† 4920 ..	Opsyra*	.. chalcoela, Hmpsn.	.. 2174a	.. Sikhim (5,000-10,000').
† 4932 ..	Micrapatetis	.. pyrastis*	..	.. Madras (Gooty).
† 4933 ..	..	.. flavipars*	..	.. Bombay.
† 4936 ..	Hypocalamia*	.. meterythra, Hmpsn.	.. 1709	.. Punjab (Murree).

The following are Corrections and Additions to Volumes VII and VIII of the Catalogue:—

Vol. VII.

2864a..	Trachea	.. confluens, Mo.	.. 1753	.. Sikhim.
2894 ..	..	.. monilis, Mo.	.. 1835	..
3378a..	Oroplexia	.. simulata, Mo.	.. 1776	.. Sikhim.
† 3452a..	Pachylepis	.. dilectissima, Wlk.	.. 2109	.. N. E. Bengal; Nilgiris; Ceylon; Burma.
† 3452b..	Xantholepis*	.. dicycla, Wlk.	.. 2110	.. N. India; Burma.
† 3457a..	Pecilogramma	.. albiscripta, Hmpsn.	.. 2139a	.. Khasis; Bombay (Kanara, Karwar); Nilgiris; Ceylon (Maskeliya).
3553 ..	Pariambia	.. pulla, Swinh.	.. 2089	.. Punjab (Simla, Campbellpur, Dharmsala, Cawnpur); Bengal (Calcutta); Bombay (Deesa, Poona); Ceylon (Wellawaya).

3553a..	Pariamtra	.. unduligera, Butl.	.. 2078	.. Punjab (Dharmasala) Madras (Belgaum).
Vol. VIII				
3887a..	Antha	.. rotunda, Hmps. n.	.. 2191a	.. Sikkim.

[T. B. F.]

The number *preceding* each species is its number in the present Catalogue ; the number *following* each species is its number in the old arrangement followed in the "Fauna of India" volumes.